



Connecticut Business & Industry Association

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TESTIMONY OF  
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VICE PRESIDENT AND ECONOMIST  
CONNECTICUT BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION  
SUBMITTED TO THE  
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
MARCH 8, 2010  
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING  
STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

Good day. My name is Pete Gioia. I am the economist for the Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA). CBIA represents about 10,000 firms, which employ about 700,000 women and men in Connecticut. Our membership includes firms of all sizes and types, the vast majority of which are small businesses with fewer than 50 people.

CBIA would like to comment upon the following bills: SB 372, SB 373, SB 374, SB 375, HB 5413, HB 5414, HB 5415, and HB 5416. CBIA is encouraged that the committee is calling for review of high spending areas in the budget. We recommend that these efforts proceed immediately and with great urgency.

**SB 372**

CBIA supports efforts to increase transparency in the budget and aid the committee in sound deliberations.

**SB 373**

CBIA supports efforts to increase awareness and oversight of DOC spending. Over the past 20 years the DOC budget has grown far in excess of overall spending increases. Serious review is long overdue.

#### **SB 374**

CBIA supports efforts to increase awareness and oversight of judicial related spending. Over the past 20 years this area budget has grown far in excess of overall spending increases. Serious review is again long overdue.

#### **SB 375**

CBIA supports efforts to increase awareness and oversight of public and mental health and developmental services related spending. Over the past 20 years these budgets have grown far in excess of overall spending increases. Serious review is again long overdue.

#### **HB 5413**

CBIA supports efforts to increase awareness and oversight of social services related spending. Over the past 20 years this area budget has not only grown far in excess of overall spending increases, but serious discrepancies between what private nonprofit providers get paid for similar work done by state workers is a fairness and equity issue. This and DOC should be the top priorities in these reviews

#### **HB 5414 and HB 5416**

Given the huge role of DOE and of DHE better review of their spending would be a plus.

#### **HB 5415**

Certainly OFA should review high growth areas. But, we would also like to see a review of the largest and most costly areas –high growth or not. The committee needs to review the

overall base of state funding and see where by doing things differently, such as using LEAN organizational techniques and looking at other states best practices it might trim dollars while maintaining or improving services citizens want and need.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

